TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

NEWSLETTER

MARCH, 1999

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Bud Hughes K4CWG 269-0779 SECRETARY: Becky Lee KF4HTB 267-9375
V. PRES.: Ozzie Osband N4SCY 383-9750 TREASURER: Becky Lee KF4HTB 267-9375

CLUB INFORMATION

TARC MEETINGS :	**Monthly on 4th Tuesday at 1900 hrs at Jaycee Building.**
TARC NETS:	**VIP - Thursdays at 1000 hrs on 146.910**
	FRIENDSHIP - Thursdays at 1830 hrs. on146.910
	MOSQUITO - Wednesdays at 1900 hrs on 28.333
TARC REPEATERS:	**VHF - 146.910 and146.970. UHF 444.150**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bud Hughes K4CWG

OK gang, let's get set for our free Titusville Tailgate Party coming up March 27. The location is on State Road 50 on the South side of the highway in the large field in front of Expedient Services. The address is 2459 Cheney Hwy., Titusville, FL. This is approximately 3/4 mile East of WAL-MART. If by chance you are considering either a garage or yard sale, why not give thought to hauling your goodies down to this giant Flea Market/Tailgate. Since there is a lot of traffic on State Road 50, we should have great exposure for all our treasures.

I sure wish Joe and Bertha, N1PAW & N1OGE way up there in Auburn, Mass. could be with us. Your support is greatly appreciated.

John, KB3GK has been e-mailing and advertising this event. Thanks, John.

It is my understanding that the ladies in the club will be preparing biscuits and gravy and other nice treats for our nourishment. As always, you know the food prices will be most reasonable.

We will need volunteers to help park vendors and assist in other trivial matters. Please come on out and join the club activities. The talk-in frequency will be 146.91. Be sure and mark your calendar and be there.

Thanks to Warren, W4CEL, Chris, K4ZZZ and others, the equipment and site for Field Day, June 26-27 is coming along beautifully. The event this year will be held at the same place as the past several years - Fox Lake Park.

A special thanks to Ozzie, N4SCY for an excellent program. Keep up the good work guy.

Received e-mail from David, KA0YSO. Our Boy Scout Family Fest will be May 1 at the First United Church in Cocoa on US 1. Would it be possible for the club to set up a HF station for the kids to see ham radio? There are no trees, but there will be plenty of room for antennas. My answer is.....see page 2.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

MAR 4 AF4LD GARY COMMER
MAR. 6 KD4DOJ FAYE SKIDMORE
MAR. 8 WB4LOE LARRY SKIDMORE
MAR.12 KF4BKY JOE HUSSON
MAR.15 KA4LTY LLOYD MULLENS
MAR.17 KK4EY LEE ROLL
MAR.19 AB4P BILL MALLMAN
MAR.19 KS4YH JOHN TOWERS
MAR.20 KD4EYR JUNE ROLL
MAR.23 KA3CFG JOSEF GOEBEL
MAR.23 WB4PXO JIM MORGAN
MAR.23 AC4KU AL SANFORD
MAR.24 KD4JMX STEPHANIE PHILLIPS
MAR.27 AE4OJ DAVID GREENWALD
MAR.28 KE4AGK MAURICE GIONET
MAR.30 KC4CIX ROGER MCCLELLAND
MAR.30 KC4TE GENE MANN
MAR.31 KD4ITX NANCY MARSDEN

PRESIDENT.....from page 1
yes. That would be a nice way to introduce Boy Scouts to amateur radio. What is your pleasure, guys?

Received e-mail from Nick, KF4SEK. The Monday night TARC Traders Net has moved from Monday to Friday. The net is on 146.91 and is held at 8:00 PM.

Hope to see you at the 3/23/99 club meeting as well as the 3/27/99 Tailgate Session.

Bud,

Enclosed please find a donation to help defray the cost of the tailgate party that's planned for March 27. Sure sounds like a good time will be had by all. Wish we could be there with you but it doesn't look like we'll be able to make it by then. Enjoy yourselves! Have a hot dog for us!

Also enclosed are our dues for the new year.

As always,
Joe & Bert Bonardi
N1PAW & N1OGE

REFERENCE LIBRARY
By Clyde K4EOS

The response to TARC's Technical Reference Library has been very good. Our thanks to the contributors.

Due to limited space here, we cannot accept any reference material not radio amateur related. Also, we have many QST's, 73's, etc. on hand. No more are needed.

We had originally said we would publish the list of available materials each month in the newsletter. Due to the extensive listing, we will instead have updated printouts available at the monthly meetings.

FCC PROPOSES LOW POWER RADIO BROADCAST SERVICE
PIRATES MAY BE INELIGIBLE UNLESS "REHABILITATED"
From W5YI Report 2/15/99

At a January 28 public meeting, the Federal Communications Commission took the first step toward creating relatively low cost community "alternative voice" radio stations. It proposed to introduce Low Power FM (LPFM) broadcasting which has not been available since

1978. The proposal launches the FCC itself into what is likely to be tremendous controversy and a predicted "land rush" as thousands try to grab radio licenses.

The *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* (NPRM) in Mass Media (MM) Docket 99-25 proposes to create new 1000 W (LP1000) and 100 W (LP100) FM stations, and to reduce or eliminate rules designed to limit interference to FM stations located on second and third adjacent frequencies to a given station. Hundreds, if not thousands of small broadcasters could be approved to run relatively inexpensive low power FM radio stations.

The NPRM comes after the Commission received several petitions to create LPFM services, as well as some 13,000 inquiries last year from persons wanting to start low power stations. Two of the petitioners are Extra Class ham operators: Nickolaus Leggett N3NL of Reston, VA and Roger Skinner W4FM of Pompano Beach, FL.

Last year also saw intense activity by "pirate" unlicensed "micro radio" stations. Former pirates who refused to shut down their stations may not have access to LPFM licensees, FCC staff said, unless the pirates could demonstrate that they had "rehabilitated" themselves. But "we leave it open - we did not slam the door on those people," said Mass Media Bureau chief Roy Steward.

At antenna height of 60 meters, LP1000 stations could serve an 8.8 mile radius, the FCC said, while LP100 stations could serve 3.5 miles from 30 meter height.

THE NPRM COVERS MANY LPRM ISSUES INCLUDING:

STATUS: LP1000 stations would be primary on the frequency, while LP100 stations would be secondary and must accept any interference they may receive.

TYPE OF STATION: Should LPFM stations be commercial, noncommercial, or both?

OWNERSHIP: The FCC proposed that existing broadcasters could not own or have any joint sales or marketing agreements with a LPFM station. No one could own more than one LPFM station in the same community.

THE FCC HAS SET ASIDE THE AMATEUR EXTRA CLASS LICENSE UPGRADES OF FOUR AMATEURS who were examined at a W5YI-VEC test session on October 4 and 6, 1998 in Warminister and Spring City, PA

In a letter from FCC attorney Riley Hollingsworth, Philip DiGenova N3UNS (Bartonsville, PA, Kenneth L. Sharp AA3RU (Boyerstown, PA), Wayne S. Bowden AA3RT (Millsboro, DE), and Elmer J. Smith N3UNR (Effort, PA) were advised that their applications for Extra Class licenses had been dismissed.

"Serious questions about the examination process remain, "Hollingsworth said. "Our investigation is continuing and we have not determined what action to take regarding the licensees administering the examination session."

THE FCC HAS SENT A STERN WARNING LETTER TO ANTHONY BARBEN N2WNF OF BROOKLYN, NY. The Commission's Riley Hollingsworth said it had evidence that Barben has "...been deliberately and maliciously interfering with VHF repeater operations of other licensed Amateurs in your area. Our evidence indicates that you have engaged in harassment, malicious interference and transmitting FM phone signals on 144.100 Mhz."

Hollingsworth cautioned Barben that "Operation of the type described above - even one incident - will immediately result in a monetary forfeiture being leveled against you and in revocation proceedings before an Administrative Law Judge." He also said Barben's transmitting equipment would be seized.

Riley Hollingsworth also reversed the General Class upgrade of Richard Lalone KC5GAX of Fort Campbell, KY. He said "information before the Commission indicates that the Physician's Certification used on your application to upgrade is not a valid document." Lalone's operator license was returned to Tech Plus and further enforcement action is being considered before an Administrative Law Judge.

SONY DEVELOPS 80 MINUTE MINIDISK
From CyberSKIP 2/99

Sony Corp. [TOKYO:6758] has developed a new re-recordable MiniDisc that is capable of storing up to 80 minutes of digital audio. Conventional MiniDiscs can hold 50 or 74 minutes of sound.

The new disc will go on sale in Japan on February 10 and be priced at 650 yen (US$5.74) per disc. Sony will ramp up mass production of the discs, which achieve the greater recording time through a new magnetic recording film, to two million units per month.

MIKE FRIGHT
From QST Correspondence 2/99

It's relatively easy to get prospective hams to listen to a receiver, but getting them to talk on the air is another matter. Microphone phobia afflicts both children and adults.

Fifteen years ago I discovered at least one method to curtail mike fright. It occurred when my son brought some of his grade-school classmates over to our house for a demonstration of Amateur Radio. After making contact with my father, KA9ACS (now a silent key) in northern Illinois, we tried to get some of the students to speak with him on the air. Mike fright took hold, however, and no one wanted to talk.

We opted to make a game of the contact, a bit like "20 questions". I hadn't told them where my father was located, so I challenged them to figure it out. They could do so only by asking questions such as "Are you east or west of the Mississippi?" or "Do you live near an ocean?" It didn't take long before they embraced the challenge and lined up behind the microphone to ask their questions!

Recently I used the same technique with my brother, N4GQQ, who was demonstrating Amateur Radio to some Scouts in his area. Once again we played "Guess Where" with me at the mystery location and it was every bit as successful as before.

The moral of the story is simple. Don't just drop a microphone into someone's hands and expect them to speak. What comes second to us is completely alien to others. Give them a compelling, challenging reason to talk and they'll find their words!

Bob Wertz, NF7E, Flagstaff, Arizona

OUR PUBLIC IMAGE

It's difficult for people outside the hobby to appreciate what we do, and why we love doing it. I would like to see more emphasis in the media on the uniquely social nature of Amateur Radio operation. How many other radio services allow users to make random contacts just for the fun of striking up a conversation with a stranger? Bringing people together and creating a safe place to talk, if a virtual one, is just what this society needs in this age of isolation. Let's communicate this aspect of ham radio to people who are hesitant to join us because they're not sure if we welcome outsiders. After all, the bands belong to everyone, and they should know that it's okay to come on in. The water's fine.

I would also like to see, along with cutting-edge technology, some support within the hobby for proven modes and the skilled operators that make them work. I know I'm losing some friends here, but CW and SSB have their place. Part of our shining success at being reliable emergency communicators is because the protocols

are ingrained in our operators, not built into the equipment. Our resourcefulness is what makes us come through in a pinch. It's why, when the tornado in Jarrell, Texas (see your January 1998 QST) knocked out everything from landline phones and cellular networks to Williamson County's UHF trunk system, the local ARES chapters were able to set up a fully functional emergency net within hours. The people who count on us know we come through.

I realize that all this is already being addressed. I just want to encourage more of it. I thoroughly enjoy this hobby and I want to spread the word about just how rewarding it is. If I can talk even one other person into getting licensed, I'll do whatever it takes. *Bruce Bostick, KD5BIV, Austin, Texas*

FURBIES POSE SECURITY THREAT

From CyberSKIP 2/99

"Chirp, fleezel bop, mee mee, noo loo, missiles and anthrax in Iraq." Those furry, lovable and high tech Furby toys are banned from the ultrasecret National Security Agency (NSA), with the aim of preventing the leaking of national secrets because of the toys' recording ability, according to a press report.

The Washington Pose reports in Wednesday editions that NSA banned last December from Fort Meade the Furby toys that have the ability to repeat what they "hear".

"Personally owned photographic, video and audio recording equipment are prohibited items. This includes toys, such as 'Furbys," with built-in recorders that repeat the audio with synthesized sound to mimic the original signal," the Post quoted an internal NSA memo as saying. "We are prohibited from introducing these items into NSA spaces."

The hot Furby toys, which have built-in microprocessors, and infrared transmitters, not only can respond to their environment by repeating what they hear, they can sleep, communicate with one another and even talk in their own language.

Furbys normally cost around $30. But parents and others who looked for the furry critters around Christmas time went empty-handed because of a shortage of the electronic creatures. Others paid top dollar for the fuzzy squawk-boxes.

FCC ISSUES 5-Mhz EXPERIMENTAL LICENSE TO ARRL

The FCC has issued an Experimental Radio Service license to the ARRL to permit two-way tests in the vicinity of 5 Mhz, the most likely site of the next amateur HF band. The license, bearing the call sign WA2XSY, was issued January 8. A group of 15 current amateurs in various parts of the US and the Caribbean will conduct experimental, two-way RTTY and SSB transmissions within the band 5.100 to 5.450 Mhz. To avoid interfering with existing services, the participants will confine their operations to the least populated 50 kHz segment.

"The idea is to show that an amateur allocation there will improve our emergency communication capabilities by filling the gap between the 3.5 and 7.0 Mhz bands," said ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ. Sumner pointed out that several of the participants are phone net members in the Caribbean and Gulf area who frequently handle hurricane-related traffic and now must alternate between 75 meters and 40 meters. Other participants are members of a nationwide digital data-forwarding network.

The Experimental license is good for two years. Two studies by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) include an allocation at 5 Mhz among the future spectrum needs for the Amateur Service. The subject is not likely to show up on the agenda of a World Radiocommunication Conference for several years, however. ..see page 7

ABELL'S ANECDOTES

By Pike, W4EPU

A lot is being said and written about the inevitable Y2K problem (The apparent inability of computer systems to recognize the year date change from 99 to 00. (i.e. Year 1999 to 2000). I may as well also put in my two cents worth.

From what I can gather, not too long ago actually, RAM (Random Access Memory) was scarce, expensive and at a premium. 64K RAM, for example, was a lot. Someone decided that by omitting the first two digits of the year it would save some of the precious RAM. Thus instead of the year '1999', it is simply '99'. Now, at the end of this year when the date flips over from 99 to 00, the computers apparently can't figure out whether it is 1900 or 2000. Apparently, therein lies the problem.

First of all, I can not conceive that an seemingly simple process of making computer systems recognize a date conversion from '1999' to '2000' will cause that much havoc. Especially when considering the computer technology that is being, and has already been developed such as Windows, internet systems, etc.

However and perhaps those of you who have personal computers know or will be glad to know that there is a program available which can fix your Y2K problem. That may work locally. But interfacing with other computers in the internet or, where you bank for example, which may not have fixed the problem, might even negate that. Banks are bracing for a deluge of depositors withdrawing their funds in fear of losing them. As one banker put it, "That will create a 'spike' in interest rates".

Nonetheless we are confronted with a possible monumental problem for which we must prepare. Emergency management organizations are taking it very seriously and are expecting a too little too late scenario. Some examples are:

Emergency Management is preparing to strongly advise travelers not to be aboard passenger aircraft in flight at the stroke of midnight on December 31, 1999. Brevard County Emergency Management personnel are preparing for Y2K the same as if it were a hurricane. In discussions with one Brevard Emergency Management representative, I was told that we are expected to experience power failures and everything a hurricane produces, and more, except the wind and the rain. Even the telephone systems may crash.

Emergency Management will recommend that people stock up on food, water and medical supplies, and make sure cars are full of gas. They will say that those who have emergency generators should stock up on gasoline.

We here in the Titusville Amateur Radio Club must also be prepared to provide emergency communications even if it means having to forego some of the traditional New Years Eve celebrations. This year will not only welcome in a new year, or a new century, but a new millennium....73s es 88s

YUKON QUEST

e-mail to Jo and Kay Jordan,
KE4AEB & KE4MXF
From their son Paul, KL0AN

Hey there. Well, you missed a pretty bust Saturday night...The first musher got into Angel Creek around 8pm and the last musher finally arrived around 8:45 AM Sunday...He had decided to take a nice nap along the trail and only stayed in Angel Creek for 2 hours.

At one time we had over 350 sled dogs in an area smaller than 2 football fields. Lots of highly trained athletes, them sled dogs. Got a few pictures taken. Got about a 3 hour nap after the 28th team came in with only the last guy on the trail. They were all gone by 10:45am Sunday morning and we headed out shortly after. I got to help a lot with parking the teams and getting them

headed in the right direction as they left in the morning.

The radios worked fine once I found a different repeater than the original one we had set up to use. Couldn't make the connection with the original one so I went to an alternate, made a few calls, and the guys on the other end went to my original one and let them know what was going on. Angel Creek is only 55 miles from Fairbanks, but there are a few troublesome mountains in between so you gotta take whatever you can get.

Tina helped out a lot checking the mushers in and out of the checkpoint while I made the relays back to Fairbanks. We had one other ham show up for a few hours and he helped out by helping park dogs.

Had a beautiful Northern Lights show most of the night...really clear skies and temps in the -20's or so - not really that bad. Had a really good heater in the cabin to warm up to when the teams weren't coming in.

They might be doing the same route (Fairbanks to Whitehorse) next year, so start planning your trip. I'm sure we can keep you warm for 12 to 14 hours. Think about it and start saving your pennies.

How's Mom doing??

TTYL Paul

JANUARY MINUTES

By Becky Lee, KF4HTB

After the usual opening ceremony of Pledge to Flag, moment of silence, introduction of members and guests and birthday acknowledgments, President Bud, K4CWG talked about plans for the free tailgate party to be held on March 27, in the vacant lot in front of Expedient Services. He urged all to come out and participate in this event.

John Munsey, KB3GK talked about fox hunting, and the new equipment the Daytona club uses.

Les, K4SJC said plans are underway to move the 91 equipment from the old location to the new one. When he has set up the exact date he will notify everyone.

Clyde, K4EOS thanked all those who have donated material to the technical library.

Bud, K4CWG discussed the up coming changes in Amateur Radio license classifications, and how important it is to pass your code tests before the new classifications are finalized. Tentative plans were made for a code class.

Ken Tendick, N9EZV told members about a weather radio which is available at Walmart for $29.95.

Ozzie, N4SCY presented a program on a computer program for tracking satellites. He offered floppies of the computer program to anyone wishing to have it.

TREASURERS REPORT
By Becky Lee KF4HTB

Balance Forward From 1998	$6634.75
Deposits Year to Date	778.50
TOTAL INCOME	**7413.25**
Expenditures	715.88
BALANCE AS AT 2/28/99	**6697.37**
FEMA Escrow	1449.32
BALANCE-CLUB FUNDS	**$5248.05**

Experimental License from page 5

Participants in the WA2XSY experiment may run up to 200 W effective radiated power. Similar multiband trap dipoles capable of operation on 80 and 40 meters as well as at 5 Mhz will be employed at each station. Operation by participants will consist of short transmissions to determine propagation characteristics.

One of the participating stations will be located in Florida.

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P. O. BOX 73
TITUSVILLE FL 32781-0073

HAPPY ST. PATRICKS DAY

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Total membership: 245 (174 regular, 60 family, 11 honorary)

NEWMEMBERS:

KF4OKC LAWRENCE COURTRIGHT JR.
KD4WLE SEAN HAGA

RENEWALS:

KF4AOW W. S. DAMPIER
KE4WJU TERRY DAMPIER
AE4CB DAVID HURST
W4EPU PIKE ABELL
KE4YQL CLARA ABELL
KB3GK JOHN MUNSEY
WD4JNM MARTY COIN
KF4NKL ROE WEAVER
N1PAW JOE BONARDI
N1OGE BERTHA BONARDI
W4VQB BOB NEDIMYER
KF4VRR DON PATTEN

HAMFESTS:

	MAR 13	ENGLEWOOD
	MAR.27	TITUSVILLE FREE TAILGATE